

REMARKS

For the purpose of placing the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this patent application, and reconsideration of the Final Office Action dated August 13, 2001.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 7 and 24-32 have been allowed; claims 2-4 and 8-23 are presently withdrawn from consideration; and claims 1 and 6 stand rejected.

Applicant respectfully notes that claims 2-4, 6 and 8-23 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that all of the claims be rejoined in the application, when claim 1 has been allowed.

\* \* \*

Applicant files herewith an oath/declaration which recites all of the applications from which priority is being claimed. The claim for priority of the Swedish application number 9504505-0, filed 15 December 1995, was perfected in the parent application, as noted in the Office Action Summary of the previous Office Action. Applicant earlier provided, on August 13, 1999 in the parent application, a verified translation of the Swedish priority document.

Applicant notes that this Swedish application was then filed as an International Application, PCT/SE96/01664, with an international filing date of December 16, 1996 (December 15, 1996 being a Sunday). U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 09/093,614, was filed in the U.S. on June 9, 1998, as a continuation of the PCT application, and the present application was filed on January 18, 2000 as a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 09/093,614. With the filing of a new oath/declaration, Applicant respectfully notes that the priority date of the present application, December 15, 1995, predates the Ingemansson *et al.* article, so that the article is overcome as a reference.

\* \* \*

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ingemansson *et al.*, and Pinsky et al. or Naka et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration. However, because the Applicant's claim for priority is now perfected, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant notes above that, with the filing of a new oath/declaration, the claim for priority of the Swedish application number 9504505-0, filed 15 December 1995, is perfected in the present application, the formalities for claiming priority having been properly complied with. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Ingemansson et al. article, published in 1996, is overcome, and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

\* \* \*

Claims 1 and 6 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ingemansson et al., and Nozick et al., Pinsky et al., or Naka et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration. However, because the Applicant's claim for priority is now perfected, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome.

Applicant noted above that, with the filing of a new oath/declaration, the claim for priority of the Swedish application number 9504505-0, filed 15 December 1995, is perfected in the present application, the formalities for claiming priority having been properly complied with. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Ingemansson et al. article, published in 1996, is overcome, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

\* \* \*

Applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding rejections in the Office Action are overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience is therefore respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-

4300. If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary and not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should also be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033314W548931.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: Robert G. Weilacher Res. No. 42,391  
for Robert G. Weilacher, Reg. No. 20,531  
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 659-2811  
Fax: (202) 263-4329

December 11, 2001